

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 07374 120939Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----030587 120942Z /17

O 120845Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3566  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7374

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, LE, IS  
SUBJECT: INFIL: BOUTROS/SIILASVUO CONVERSATION ON JUNE 9

REF: (A) USUN 02380 (B) JERUSALEM 1592

1. BY CHANCE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10, I WAS AT LUNCHEON  
WITH GENERAL SIILASVUO AT THE HOME OF THE FINNISH  
AMBASSADOR IN TEL AVIV. HE CONFIRMED THAT HIS CONVERSATION  
WITH BOUTROS AND KHOURY WAS A WELCOME EVENT  
WITH SOME GOOD NEWS, FOR A CHANGE. SIILASVUO MADE CLEAR,  
HOWEVER, THAT BOUTROS' STATEMENTS TO EFFECT THAT UNIFIL  
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SHOULD DEAL WITH MAJOR HADDAD AS IF HE WERE PART OF THE  
LEBANESE ARMY WAS PUT IN FORM OF "DE FACTO" RECOGNITION,  
RATHER THAN ANY STATEMENT ABOUT A MORE FORMAL ACCEPTANCE  
OF THE RELATIONSHIP.

2. ON QUESTION OF THE "GOOD FENCE," SIILASVUO SAID IT  
WAS INDEED AGREED THAT UNIFIL WOULD MAN CERTAIN BORDER

POSTS, AND IT WAS AT LEAST CLEARLY ACCEPTED TACITLY BY BOUTROS AND KHOURY THAT THE GOOD FENCE WOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE. I ASKED HIM WHAT WOULD HAPPEN FOR EXAMPLE IF TANKS OR APC'S IN THE HANDS OF THE LEBANESE CHRISTIANS WERE BROUGHT ACROSS THE BORDER FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE, AS HAS BEEN THE CASE UP UNTIL THIS POINT. SIILASVUO SMILED ENIGMATICALLY, AND SAID THAT OF COURSE THERE WAS NO QUESTION BUT THAT UNIFIL'S ORDERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD BE TO PREVENT SUCH BORDER CROSSINGS BY HEAVY WEAPONS IN THE FUTURE. THE SAID HE INTENDED TO SAY THIS TO GENERAL EITAN. WE DISCUSSED PROBLEM WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY RESULT FROM HOARDS OF NEWSMEN PHOTOGRAPHING UN CHECKPOINTS BEING OPEN TO NORMAL GOOD FENCE PERSONAL TRAFFIC. HE SHRUGGED IN A RESIGNED FASHION AND SAID THAT THIS WOULD JUST BE SOMETHING THEY HAD TO LIVE WITH. BUT HE MADE POINT THAT IT WAS UN POSITION THAT THIS WAS AT PRESENT NOT AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL FRONTIER BUT RATHER A MILITARY ARMISTICE DEMARCATION LINE, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS LEBANESE FORCES WERE FULLY IN CONTROL AGAIN IN SOUTH LEBANON. FOR THAT REASON IT WAS WHOLLY APPROPRIATE FOR UN TO MAN THESE CHECKPOINTS.

3. SIILASVUO SAID THAT GENERAL ERSKINE WOULD BE MEETING WITH MAJOR HADDAD ON SUNDAY, JUNE 10, AND THAT HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED AND IT WAS HIS, SIILASVUO'S, JUDGMENT THAT MEETING WOULD GO CONFIDENTIAL

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WELL. BOUTROS AND KHOURY HAD PROMISED THAT APPROPRIATE ORDERS WOULD BE SENT TO HADDAD DIRECTLY EITHER SATURDAY OR SUNDAY. HE HOPED THEY WOULD ARRIVE BEFORE ERSKINE'S MEETING. SIILASVUO ALSO SAID THAT EITAN HAD ASKED TO MEET WITH HIM ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, TO GO OVER FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

4. SIILASVUO REMAINED SKEPTICAL ABOUT IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF LEBANESE FORCES, DESPITE KHOURY'S ASSURANCES TO HIM THAT FORCES WERE READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO GO SOUTH AT THIS POINT. SIILASVUO SAID HE DOUBTED ACCURACY FO ALL THREE ADJECTIVES, BUT HOPED HE WOULD BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED.

5. I ASKED ABOUT TYPE OF DEPLOYMENT HE VISUALIZED FOR UNIFIL FORCES IN CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES AFTER JUNE 13. SIILASVUO SAID HE HAD KEPT THIS MATTER SOMEWHAT VAGUE IN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS, BUT THAT HE BELIEVED THE PROPER DEPLOYMENT WOULD BE IN JOINT CHRISTIAN/UNIFIL POSTS, AT LEAST INITIALLY.

LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, BORDER CONTROLS  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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